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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

James R. Geschwindt et al

Docket No.: C-2950

Serial No.: 10/736,945

Art Unit: 1795

Filed: December 15, 2003

Examiner: Laios, Maria J.

Title: Permeable Inlet Fuel Gas Distributor
for Fuel Cells

Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Robin J. Guthrie, declare that:

1. I reside at 7 Lexington Road, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118.
2. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Management and have been working in the field of fuel cells and related arts for 34 years, and am currently engaged in that field on behalf UTC Power Corporation, South Windsor, CT.
3. I have familiarized myself with the subject matter claimed in the subject application and the relevant content of US patent 6,045,935, Ketcham et al (Ketcham) and US patent 6,569,549, Sawyer.
4. In Ketcham, for each fuel cell, there is an annulus inside the tube 38, which is aligned with holes in a ring 55 that passes fuel into a fuel cell. Each annulus is fluidically isolated to a single fuel cell by baffle disks 67 (Fig. 3), referred to as baffle rings 40 in Fig. 2. The tube 36 is a "manifold" tube (5:58) or "manifolding" tube (6:3, 4) which has a set of perforations 59 for each fuel cell, aligned with the related holes in ring 55, to provide fuel through the annulus to the corresponding fuel cell.
5. The annulus (between tube 36 and tube 38) is the inlet to a single fuel flow field of a single fuel cell. The tube 36 is the "manifold in communication with all of said fuel flow

inlets" (claim 2, lines 5 and 6). In Ketcham, there is no "chamber...including a permeable baffle through which fuel from said chamber flows into said fuel inlet manifold" (claim 2, lines 7-10).

6. In Sawyer, the valve 30 is downstream of the fuel inlet manifold 26 as well as the fuel flow fields (adjacent anode electrodes 14) and the fuel exit manifold 28.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Robin J. Guthrie
Robin J. Guthrie

09 / 23 / 2008
Date